

One of the greatest enemies to bird life in New England is to be found in the Italians, who during the last ten years have so numerously settled in the cities and larger towns. Throughout the whole year they roam over the country armed with cheap guns, shooting birds of all sizes, from the Kinglet up. Two police officers recently arrested two of these men who were in the outlying part of Springfield engaged in this illegal work. In their possession were found nearly fifty birds, the taking of which was unlawful. Among the kinds they had, I noted the Catbird, Robin, Rusty Grackle, White-throated and Song Sparrows, Olive-backed Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Flicker and Downy Woodpecker.

September 1, a Least Bittern (*Botaurus exilis*) was taken here, and October 16, a Yellow Rail (*Porzana noveboracensis*). I have never known of the presence of the latter bird here before, and there is but one record of the capture of the former in this part of the Connecticut River valley. — ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

North American Bird Notes from Costa Rica.—*Tringa bairdi*.—Two specimens of Baird's Sandpiper were taken and a number of others seen June 8 on the Volcano of Irazú, above Tierra Blanca, at about 1500 meters altitude. The birds seemed to be at home and I have wondered whether it is possible they breed there. The genital organs indicated approaching activity.

Tachycineta thalassina.—While collecting at the mouth of the Matina River (Atlantic coast) in the latter part of March I found the Violet-green Swallow not uncommon in company with *T. albilinea*. Perfect friendship seemed to exist between the two species. *T. albilinea* was breeding commonly but in none of the specimens of *thalassina* secured did the ovaries indicate approaching activity. *T. thalassina* has also been taken on the Pacific side of Costa Rica at Bebedero. There is a single specimen from that locality in the collection of the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica.

I believe this brings the record several hundred miles southward for *T. thalassina*. — GEO. K. CHERRIE, *Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, Ill.*

Notes on the Summer Birds of Central Berkshire County, Mass.—The publication, in 1884, of Mr. W. Brewster's 'Notes on the Summer Birds of Berkshire County, Mass.' (*Auk*, Vol. I, pp. 5-16), established the Canadian character of the avifauna of northern Berkshire. The lists published by Mr. W. Faxon (*Auk*, Vol. VI, pp. 39, 99), present a very full account of the distribution of the birds on Graylock, and give in addition an account of the birds of the southern end of the county. Attention has not yet been called, I believe, to the very general distribution of certain northern birds throughout the central part of Berkshire County, particularly in the eastern half, so that the following notes, made in the summers of 1892 and 1893, may be of interest.

The character of the eastern half of the county differs in a marked degree from that of the western. The Taconic range, which forms the western boundary of the county, consists of a series of isolated peaks, separated by the Hoosick and the Housatonic Valleys from the high ground to the eastward. Here the surface is an almost unbroken plateau, falling gradually from an altitude of over 2000 feet, north of the Westfield River, to 1500 feet at the Connecticut boundary. Black spruce and balsam fir, which are absent in the Housatonic Valley and on the Taconic range, are characteristic trees of this plateau, and extend as far south as the town of Otis, about fifteen miles north of Connecticut.

The birds in the following list are either not reported in the published lists of Berkshire birds, or else were found in stations much further south than those hitherto noted. Unless otherwise specified the following observations were made between June 27 and July 16. Mr. W. Faxon has permitted me to use in the preparation of my list several of his manuscript notes.

1. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK. — One pair seen in Stockbridge.
2. *Aix sponsa*. WOOD DUCK. — A female with young in Stockbridge.
3. *Ardea virescens*. GREEN HERON. — Not common.
4. *Rallus virginianus*. VIRGINIA RAIL. — One in Stockbridge.
5. *Porzana carolina*. CAROLINA RAIL. — One in Stockbridge, May 30, 1892.
6. *Fulica americana*. AMERICAN COOT. — A pair was seen by Mr. W. Faxon in Cheshire Reservoir, June 21, 1892.
7. *Totanus solitarius*. SOLITARY SANDPIPER. — Two seen in Becket, July 8, 1893.
8. *Colinus virginianus*. BOB-WHITE. — Not uncommon in Stockbridge in 1892; none found in 1893.
9. *Bonasa umbellus togata*. CANADIAN RUFFED GROUSE. — Found by Mr. Faxon on Graylock.
10. *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. — Two seen in June in North Adams by Mr. Faxon.
11. *Asio wilsonianus*. AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL. — A specimen in the Pittsfield Athenæum, labelled "Pontoosuc Lake, April 30, 1879."
12. *Asio accipitrinus*. SHORT-EARED OWL. — A specimen in the Pittsfield Athenæum, labelled "Pittsfield, April 17, 1879."
13. *Megascops asio*. SCREECH OWL. — Young found in Stockbridge.
14. *Bubo virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL. — Nest with young found in Stockbridge, April 8, 1893.
15. *Coccyzus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. — One in Stockbridge.
16. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. — One seen in Stockbridge, May 30, 1892.
17. *Contopus borealis*. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. — A nest with young found in Hinsdale, June 30, 1893.
18. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. — Not rare from Becket northward.

19. *Junco hyemalis*. SNOWBIRD. — Not rare on the Hoosac Plateau.
20. *Vireo flavifrons*. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. — Three or four in Stockbridge.
21. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER. — One in Becket, two in Stockbridge, in white pine woods.
22. *Dendroica maculosa*. MAGNOLIA WARBLER. — Not rare among spruces from Becket northward.
23. *Dendroica blackburniæ*. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. — A few in Stockbridge; not rare in spruce woods from Becket northward.
24. *Dendroica virgorsii*. PINE WARBLER. — Mr. FAXON shot a female in North Adams in the breeding season.
25. *Troglodytes hiemalis*. WINTER WREN. — One heard in Great Barrington, fourteen miles north of the Connecticut line; heard also in Becket and Washington.
26. *Cistothorus stellaris*. SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN. — Locally common in Stockbridge.
27. *Regulus satrapa*. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. — Found in spruce woods in Becket, Washington, and northward. — FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

Some Notes on Cape Breton Summer Birds.—Through the kindness of Mrs. Bolles I have before me a list of the birds observed in Cape Breton by the late Frank Bolles during the first two weeks of August, 1893. This enables me to make at least two additions to the list of summer birds of the Bras d'Or region as published in 'The Auk' (Vol. IV, p. 13, and Vol. VIII, p. 164) by Dr. Dwight and myself. These two species are *Loxia curvirostra minor*, which Mr. Bolles "met with in small numbers all through the region between Baddeck and Ingonish," and *Dendroica cærulescens*, one individual of which he found near Baddeck.

As to the ten following species Mr. Bolles left no record of the precise locality where he observed them, and they may or may not have been in the Bras d'Or region: —

Larus argentatus smithsonianus. (In June 1890 I found numbers of these on the southwestern coast of the Island.)

Anas obscura.

Clangula hyemalis. (Doubtless migrants.)

Totanus solitarius.

Antrostomus vociferus. Mr. Bolles did not meet with this bird himself, but when he whistled the song, "the dwellers by sea or inland lake said, 'Oh yes, we have that bird. He sings at night.'"

Trochilus colubris. This is another bird which Mr. Bolles did not observe personally, but from the reports of the inhabitants he was positive of its occurrence.

Sayornis phœbe. "Pewees and small Flycatchers few and far between."